



## NEWS RELEASE

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## Bellflower Man Found Guilty of Murder

A man was found guilty today of fatally stabbing another outside of an apartment complex last year, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Deputy District Attorney Monique Preoteasa said Jeffery Ardonal Johnson, 62, of Bellflower was convicted of one count of first-degree murder in case VA146860.

The jury also found true an allegation that the defendant personally used a deadly and dangerous weapon, a knife, during the commission of the crime.

Sentencing is scheduled on Aug. 26 in Department K of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Norwalk Branch. The defendant faces 26 years to life in state prison.

Johnson and victim Anthony Maurice Elston, 24, knew each other because Elston's sister had children with the defendant's son and was moving into the same apartment complex as the defendant.

On the evening of Jan. 27, 2018, Johnson armed himself with a kitchen knife after a brief encounter with the victim at Elston's sister's apartment. Subsequently, a fight broke out between the defendant's son and Elston's sister in the apartment complex parking garage, according to evidence presented at trial.

During that fight, Johnson approached Elston, who was unarmed, and fatally stabbed him once in the abdomen. The defendant then left the parking garage, went to his residence, washed the blood off the knife and left the scene, the prosecutor said.

The defendant returned nearly two hours later and turned himself into law enforcement.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

### [About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.